

Message

From: Mercurio, Cristina [Mercurio.Cristina@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/25/2017 1:02:32 PM
To: Fleitman, Randy H [FleitmanRH@state.gov]
CC: Hill-Macon, Cam [Hill-Macon.Cam@epa.gov]; 'Conrads, Paul' [pconrads@usgs.gov]; Richardson, William [Richardson.William@epa.gov]; Tarquinio, Ellen [Tarquinio.Ellen@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: March 24 Brasil Mission ESTH Committee meeting writeup; Next is May 25 10 am EST
Attachments: 2017 03-24 Brazil Mission ESTH Committee Meeting.docx

Hi Randy,

Thanks for noting EPA's willingness to provide a debrief on the USGS-EPA Brazil Water Mission. Paul Conrads, USGS, is available for the call on May 24 and Bill Richardson, EPA, can probably join late so if you could have this item closer to the end of the agenda that would be helpful.

Thanks and all the best.

Cristina

From: Fleitman, Randy H <FleitmanRH@state.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2017 3:46 PM
To: Brasilia ESTH Americans; Brasilia ESTH LES; Brasilia ECON Americans; Rick Ortiz; andrew.gately@trade.gov; Landon.Loomis@trade.gov; Hamilton, Clay M; Geller, Laura; Rubio, Nicolas E; Richardson, Kyle A; Sing Key, Gloria C; Smith, Jason H; Dee, Jeffrey J; Mindi Hertzog; Pederson, Kari J; Guerrero, Tomas A; LeBailly, Etienne S; Reynolds, Arlissa M; Brasilia ESTH; Krieghbaum, Kelly; Harris, Lorenzo; Valencia, Sam J CAPT USN SOUTHCOM SCO BRA (US; Gonzalez, Paloma H (Recife); Duff, Andrew J; hector.martir@ice.dhs.gov; Eddy, Michael (RDMA/GVP); Toness, Anna (USAID/ZAMBIA/SO5); Frazier, Robert A; Ospina, Fernando; Moore, Steve L; Abramowicz, Ory S; Michael Muth; Cabello, Olga A; Pitman, Imani E; Mace, Bonnie; Schwartz, Robert L; Zweede, Michelle A -FS; Hill-Macon, Cam; Mercurio, Cristina; Cerqueira, Julie; Hudak, Patrick M (OES); Watson, Gregory D; Klepp, Deborah E (OES); Cannizzaro, Christopher M; Echavarria, Fernando R; Ford, Robert J (OES); Rivers, Christopher M; MacIsaac, Marisa; Fietzer, Nicholas C; DeRosa-Joynt, Barbara M (OES); Sykes, Sherry Zalika; Griffin, Andrew A; Carvalho, Fernanda; Mancuso, Alexandre (USAID/BRAZIL/ENV); Araujo, Alex (USAID/BRAZIL/PARTNERSHIP); Gillen, Adelle F; Dubois, Amy E; Carrijo, Dailani S; Carrero-Martinez, Franklin A; Jennifer_L_Michael@ostp.eop.gov; Uhl, Geeta (E3/FAB); DavisAL1@state.go; Reiter, Richard T (Recife); hector.martir@ice.dhs.gov; Duff, Andrew J; Martin, Jason T; robert.holman@usss.dhs.gov; Catherine.Reynolds@treasury.gov; Friedman, Paul L (Leandro); Kane, Kristin M; Rakestraw, Andrew R
Subject: March 24 Brasil Mission ESTH Committee meeting writeup; Next is May 25 10 am EST

Here is the readout from the March ESTH Committee DVC meeting. Sorry to take so long. It's EER season. Because of travel and holiday schedule, we skipped April. Please mark your calendar for the May meeting on Thursday (not Friday), May 25 11:00 am Brasilia, 10 am EST.

Do you have an issue you would like to put on the agenda and/or present?

Brazil Mission ESTH Committee Meeting of 3/24/17

- 1) (U) Landfills and Solid Waste: ESTH and FCS: Visited Brasilia's two landfills. The new one is world-class, versus the original dump that started informally decades ago and previously leached nasty effluent into the neighboring national park. Some leaching may still be occurring. The new dump is an effort to implement the 2012 law requiring municipalities to modernize their solid waste management. The financial crisis has slowed cities' implementation, but Brasilia wants to lead the nation. One issue of closing the old landfill and using new technologies in the new facility is how to improve collection and separation with the 4,000 trash collectors who lack other employment prospects. Rather than replace them immediately with trucks and automation, landfill operator SLR is using them as sorters at three neighborhood weigh stations where small trucks transfer their collection to large trucks that take non-recyclables to the landfill. The goal is to absorb 70% of Brasilia's waste. SLR is looking at other opportunities, such as repairing and upgrading composting facilities using a \$60 million IDB grant to produce fuel bricks that could replace the coal and old tires that local cement plants currently burn. Brasilia's goal for decommissioning the old dump is to mine it, install a liner to prevent leaching, bury it, and replant cover.
- 2) (SBU) Bogota regional wildlife anti-trafficking conference: ESTH reported the three day, INL funded conference in Bogota brought together law enforcement and NGOs from Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and the U.S. for detailed discussions of how strengthen their national regimes and improve regional cooperation to stop wildlife trafficking. The Brazilian delegation participated actively, and used the opportunity to draft a plan to hold an event in Brasilia in September or October to launch an initiative for a national anti-trafficking strategy.
- 3) Deforestation Detection Improvement Stalled by Strike in French Guiana: In addition to providing secure communications for Brazil's security agencies and national broadband internet access, ESTH reported the Brazil's Geostationary Defense and Communications Satellite (SGDC-1) will provide much better imaging to detect deforestation and direct enforcement efforts than the current Landsat, which can be blocked by clouds. Unfortunately, the scheduled March 23 launch on an Ariane rocket from the Kourou launch site in French Guiana was delayed indefinitely by a strike that spread from Kourou to become a general strike. Brazil is writing software to take advantage of the higher resolution and detection the satellite will provide, but it is still stuck on Earth as of April 20. This may encourage the GoB to move forward on enabling its own Alcantara launch site by finally giving us its redraft of the Technology Safeguards Agreement the U.S. requires before allowing U.S. launch technology to be used at Alcantara.
- 4) Reducing violence against environmental defenders: OES has established a working group including Justice, EPA, USAID, Labor, and State Department bureaus including OES, DRL and INL to address the murders of environmental human rights activists. Unfortunately, Brazil tops the lists of both NGOs and UN agencies. INL has no specific resources for Brazil, but has general funds that could be applied. RSO Brasilia noted that ILEA San Salvador offers courses that could build police homicide investigative capacity and reduce impunity. There are other homicide investigation training events coming up in Brazil.
- 5) Yellow Fever (YF) update: HHS Amy Dubois noted the 2016 outbreak is the worst in 50 years, with 1,561 cases and 144 confirmed deaths. Minas Gerais state is the epicenter, but YF is spreading towards new areas near the coast where the people aren't already vaccinated. There have been three cases in the state of Rio de Janeiro, and one death. The GoB response is robust. Rio state plans to vaccinate the whole population, requiring 15 million doses. Brazil will increase vaccine production, but will also have to stop exports to meet this demand. Brazil can produce 9 million doses/month, but distribution and vaccination will take some time. CG Rio noted there had been five cases in an outlying town near the Minas Gerais border. OES asked about the impact of restricting vaccine exports. Amy noted that Brazil has the right to put domestic needs first. The African outbreaks have resolved, and we hope Brazil's production can get ahead of demand and replenish the global stockpile. (NOTE: Brazil subsequently decided to stretch vaccine supplies by dropping from two to one shots/person in the routine vaccination program. MOH has assessed the possibility of fractionating the vaccine on a one to five basis, an approach supported by current evidence, to provide effective protection to people in a

ring around the outbreak, while maintaining full strength doses in the high-risk areas. There are no plans to implement fractional doses unless case numbers expand more in urban areas. END NOTE.)

- 6) Earth Day Observance; ESTH is planning a tree planting and an Earth Day art contest at the international schools in Brasilia.
- 7) (SBU) EPA Technical Assistance re IBAMA licensing reform: ESTH and ECON explained that the GoB is anxious to encourage private investment in infrastructure, including transportation, oil and gas exploitation, and mining, to generate economic recovery, sustainable growth, and job creation. IBAMA's environmental licensing process (analogous to the EPA environmental impact assessment) is seen as a barrier because it is unpredictable in length, and can drag out so long as to make a project untenable. There are several reform bills in Congress that would "streamline" the licensing process. IBAMA's mother agency, the Ministry of Environment (MMA), has been negotiating a more acceptable draft bill with other Ministries and legislators. (NOTE: It had appeared several competing bills might be filed in early April, but nothing had emerged as of April 20. END NOTE.)

(SBU) At the request of IBAMA's licensing office, ESTH and EPA provided links to EPA's online resources for best international practices for environmental impact assessments. EPA is ready to do a DVC to review the guidelines with IBAMA. EPA also gave the guidelines to the Brazil-US Business Council energy group, which wants to improve licensing for oil and gas projects. CG Rio noted that IBAMA's Rio office is severely lacking in capacity and has been noted to make very wide, hard to meet demands of investors. It was agreed that the private sector could also use the EPA guidelines to improve the quality of its submissions to IBAMA.

(U) OES noted that Amazonian indigenous and religious groups had complained in a meeting at the State Dept that the public consultation process for licensing infrastructure projects was flawed. ECON noted that the GoB is trying to improve its public consultation process among other regulatory issues for infrastructure projects. EPA noted that it had provided guidelines and a toolkit for public consultation, and could do training via DVC.

- 8) (U) Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 General Assembly: ESTH briefed on the Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 General Assembly. TFA is a consortium of companies, NGOs and other stakeholders working together to develop deforestation-free supply chains. The states of Para and Matto Grosso are members, but the GoB has not signed up yet. It was encouraging to see companies like McDonalds, Cargill, Walmart, and international meatpacker Marfrig collaborating with NGOs and technology companies offering software enabling buyers to use satellite and land registry data to examine farms and suppliers for evidence of deforestation.

(SBU) OES noted that the Amazonian leaders had complained that Acre State were negotiating a REDD+ agreement with the state of California that offered their indigenous territory as a carbon offset deal without their consent. Such a deal would constrain their economic activities. (NOTE: OES/EGC found the negotiation is still underway, and provided resources to the indigenous group to get involved in the process. END NOTE.)

(U) EPA noted that its delegation was concluding a two-week water mission with Brazil's water authority ANA discussing water quality management and monitoring. EPA will provide a readout at the May Committee meeting.

(SBU) Innovation: S/OSTP noted that an innovation study mission from MIT would be going to the Wilson Center in Brazil, where the research landscape is changing to include/focus on gene editing, artificial intelligence, robotics neuroscience, etc. ECON noted that legislative and regulatory hurdles still limit innovation. The GoB's data protection initiative requires it to balance openness with privacy and cyber-security. We need to discuss how the government can be an effective regulator.

(U) ESTH thanked everyone for their contributions and asked everyone to mark their calendars for the Thursday, May 25 Environment Committee meeting at 11:00 am Brasilia time, 10 am Washington. The date was adjusted because of holiday and travel schedules.

Cheers,

Randy Fleitman

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